

NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY GARDEN



NEWS



MARCH 2020



NEW GARDENER REGISTRATION 2020

If you know someone who would like a plot at our Garden, tell them about New Gardener Registration, on **SATURDAY, MARCH 21**, 9:00–noon, at the Parks and Recreation Office, (**100A Bridge Road**, next to JFK Middle School). 🍀

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Mark your calendar for **SATURDAY, APRIL 25**, 10–2 P.M.

Help get the Garden in shape for the season! We will clean out the tool shed, test and set out hoses, work on the compost piles, weed invasive plants — and plenty more.

We will order bales of mulch straw for sale, as well as a truckload of compost (likely \$3–\$4 per bucket). Please bring buckets for compost! If you can help other gardeners carry straw bales or buckets of compost, please let us know.

Master Gardeners (from the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association) will be on hand to **test your soil pH** and answer gardening questions. This is a good way to meet other gardeners, help the Garden, and earn community service hours. (**Rain date:** May 2.) 🍀

CLEAN PLANT SALE

Sat., May 30, 2–6 / along the back road of the Garden.

Don't drive around plant shopping. We bring the plants to you!

Get all your non-pesticide treated plants at the Third Annual **Clean Plant Sale** at the Northampton Community Garden.

Local growers will offer vegetables, fruits, annuals, perennials, and native wildflowers.

All plants are pollinator-friendly and are grown without pesticides.

All proceeds go to the farmers/growers!

This year's growers are:

WING AND A PRAYER NURSERY / Amy Pulley, Cummington

BARE ROOTS FARM / Chris Reid and Anna Maunz, Worthington

THAT'S A PLENTY FARM / Cathy and Michael Katz, Hadley

CRABAPPLE FARM / Rachel & Tevis Robertson-Goldberg, Chesterfield

Nasami Farm / **NATIVE PLANT TRUST**, Whately 🍀

GARDEN COORDINATORS

It takes a lot of work to manage a garden comprised of 400+ plots and 250+ gardeners.

We count on specific people to manage certain aspects of the Garden, and they contribute many volunteer hours to make the Garden run smoothly. We have coordinators in these areas:

- Education
- Facebook
- Garden Inspections
- Garden Neighbors



2020 GARDEN CALENDAR

NEW GARDENER REGISTRATION

Sat, March 21
9:00 to noon
Parks and Rec. Office

NEW GARDENER ORIENTATION

Wed, April 8, 7:00 p.m.
Forbes Library Community Room

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Sat, April 25, 10–2

CLEAN PLANT SALE

Sat, May 30, 2–6

IS-YOUR-PLOT-PLANTED? INSPECTION

Sun, May 31

RAGWEED / MID-SEASON INSPECTION

Sun, July 12

FALL CLEANUP DAY

Sat, October 17, 10–2

FALL INSPECTION

Sun, October 25

GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Second Wednesday of the month; @6:00 P.M. at the Rec. Dept. at JFK Middle School; or in the Garden if weather permits (unless otherwise noted). Any Gardener may attend and observe monthly meetings. Let us know in advance if you have an item for the agenda. Check nohogarden.org for dates.

- Mowing Coordinator and mower maintenance
- Newsletter
- Survival Center deliveries
- Tool Shed
- Tools
- Tree Health
- Water, spigots, and hoses
- Website

If you would like to work in any of these areas or want more information, contact: NOHO-GARDEN@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM 

GARDEN COMMITTEE NEWS

Some members of the Garden Committee have served for years, and others are fairly new to the Garden and to the Committee.

LORA HODGES is the newest member of the Garden Committee AND our new **EDUCATION COORDINATOR**. Lora is an amazing gardener, has a stellar background in education (Ph.D.) and is adept at managing unwieldy groups — all great skills for helping to manage a large community garden!

Lora plans to create a full schedule of engaging, informative, and inspirational learning experiences for our Under the Mulberry Tree Speaker Series. So far, suggested topics include: using cover crops, pesticide-free gardening, pollinators and habitat design, the importance of maintaining biodiversity, native bees and how to support them, the role of trees in our communities, cold frame gardening, and more.

Watch for notices about upcoming workshops.

GENEVA BRINTON who joined the Garden Committee last year is investigating ideas for a new Shed.

STEPH VASILIADES, a longtime

Committee member, will be our new tree care coordinator.

CHRISTIE PETERSON will no longer be Compost coordinator, but she will continue to update our Garden website. We appreciate her ongoing help.

We thank **DAN LADD** for his many years of service on the Garden Committee and especially for tree care and tree pruning. 

MORE APPRECIATIONS

THANK YOU to **TOM BASSETT**, who has checked and repaired our water spigots for many years — to help the Garden conserve water and save money.

We are now looking for someone who has plumbing skills. 

NEF ANNUAL PLANT AND GARDEN SALE

The **NORTHAMPTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 24TH ANNUAL PLANT AND GARDEN MARKET** to benefit the **SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS BOOK FUND** will be held on Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 to 1:00, at Smith Vocational School, 80 Locust Street.

Organizers are looking for plant donations from local gardeners! If you have perennials to divide, or plants you are removing from your gardens, please pot them up and take them to Smith Vocational School on Friday, May 8, between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

If you have plants ready to go before May 8, they can be delivered to 12 Forbes Avenue, Northampton, or 373 North Farms Road, Florence, between April 18 and May 6.

If you plan to drop off plants at Smith Voke on May 8, please pot

them up early and water them so that they look happy on sale day! Those who need pots, helpers for digging, dividing, and potting, or picking up potted plants, please contact us! We have volunteers available.

Besides donations, we also need volunteers to collect and organize donated plants on May 8, and to work at the event on May 9. And of course we need people to attend the sale!

For sale at the Garden Market will be treasures from local gardens; work by local artisans; handcrafted garden furniture donated by local woodworkers; and bags of compost. We'll raffle off a handmade quilt and garden furniture made by Smith Vocational students.

Last year this event raised more than \$10,000 for the Northampton public school libraries. Any way you can contribute to this cause would be greatly appreciated! Come help support our schools by donating plants, volunteering, or attending the event! For more information, please contact Francie Lin at FRANCIE.M.LIN@GMAIL.COM or 413-320-0844; or Amy Levine at ALEVINE7@GMAIL.COM.

[HTTPS://NORTHAMPTONEDUCATION.ORG/PLANT-SALE/](https://northamptoneducation.org/plant-sale/) 

RECOMMENDED READING

In late February and in fast sequence, I bought a fabulous new book by Douglas Tallamy, *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*, about how "wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are

fast disappearing.” I then noticed a brief account by the author of the same book in the *Washington Post* titled “Welcome bugs into your yard. You might just save the world.”

The book shows how to plant native plants and turn gardens “into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats,” while quoting E. O. Wilson, the Harvard conservation biologist: “Conservation biology is a discipline with a deadline.” And the deadlines grow shorter by the year, as indicated in several recent reports, including “Consistent with a Mass Extinction, New Study Warns Climate Chaos Driving Rapid Decline of Bumblebees” and “Climate Crisis Could Cause a Third of Plant and Animal Species to Disappear within 50 Years.”

The article, also citing Wilson, reports: “If insects were to vanish, he explained, so would nearly all flowering plants and the food webs they support. This loss, in turn, would cause the extinction of reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals: in effect, nearly all terrestrial animal life. The disappearance of insects would also end rapid decomposition of organic matter and thus shut down nutrient cycling. Humans would be unable to survive.”

The “good news,” Tallamy reports in the *Post*, is “there is nothing inevitable about insect decline. Each one of us can work to bring back those populations by collaborating on what I call the ‘Homegrown National Park,’ a collective preserve built in and out of our own private yards.” And community gardens.

My point is not to tell you what

you probably already know or how to plant your garden, but to point toward a couple of recently published resources that in turn might further encourage the conservation value of an already valuable conservation effort by Northampton community gardeners.

—Howard Friel, G13, G14 🍀

2020 UMASS MASS AGGIE WORKSHOPS

UMass Extension offers a workshop series for homeowners and small-scale farmers. Many of the workshops have a hands-on component that will help participants gain new skills to use in their own gardens or landscapes. Locations and registration fees vary.

For details: UMassGarden.com.

Workshops include:

March 14 / Pruning Blueberries

March 21 / Pruning Grapes

March 28 / Home Orchard Establishment & Basics

March 28 / Home Orchard Pest Management

April 4 / Introductory Hard Cider Appreciation

April 11 / Grafting Apple Trees

April 18 / Native Pollinator Conservation & Biology

For details: UMassGarden.com. 🍀

HELP PREVENT THEFT IN THE GARDEN

Every year we hear reports of theft in the Garden — of plant starts, tools, produce, etc. Get to know your neighbors in the Garden, so you’ll know if someone is out of place. If you see actual theft, please take a photo of a person or

a license plate, and call the Northampton Police. Also, please let the Garden Committee know.

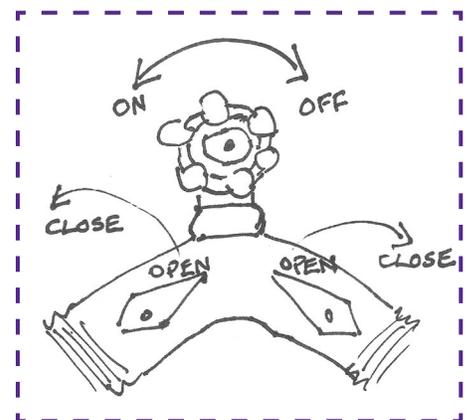


YOUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

What do you love about the Community Garden? Write a short essay about your experience, and submit it to the Newsletter! 🍀

TO CONTACT THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

E-mail us at NOHO-GARDEN@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM 🍀



Please turn off BOTH the handle and the little lever. EVERY faucet! EVERY time!